

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10-12 are amended by the present response and Claims 19-36 are added without introducing any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Wilson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,467,170, herein "Wilson"); Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wilson in view of Kimoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,390,005, herein "Kimoto"); and Claims 5 and 11 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claims 5 and 11 to be in independent form including all the features of the base and intervening claims. In addition, Claims 19-36 have been added based on the allowable features of Claims 5 and 11. Specifically, Claims 19-23 recite method claims based on the features of Claim 5, Claims 24-28 recite method claims based on the features of Claim 11, Claims 29-32 recite apparatus claims based on the features of Claim 5 and Claims 33-36 recite apparatus claims based on the features of Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 19-36 also be held to be allowable.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 6 and 12 under §112, second paragraph, Claims 6 and 12 are amended to overcome the rejection. Specifically, Claims 6 and 12 have been amended to depend from Claims 3 and 9, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 6 and 12 under §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Wilson that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part,

displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display; and  
allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming from the input document handling area.

Claim 7 recites similar features.

Wilson describes a non-touch screen panel which displays copier status and a number of copier output options. The options shown in Figure 3 of Wilson are selected using a number of physical up/down buttons B1-B8. When the user presses the B2 up button, for example, the screen shows the selection box moving from the “YES” option to the “NO” option above. In addition, the boxes above the up/down buttons B1-B8 denote to which setting each respective button corresponds (e.g. B1 corresponds to “ORIGINAL COPY”, B2 corresponds to “COLLATE”, etc.).

However, Wilson does not describe or suggest allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming from an input document handling area, as is recited in Claim 1.

The outstanding Action states on page 3 that “the area within the Job Setup Display JSUD shown above the job feature buttons “Original -> Copy” through “Zoom”” is equivalent to allowing selection of at least one kind of document for image forming from an input document handling area. Applicants traverse this assertion. However, in order to clearly distinguish Claim 1 from Wilson, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the input

document handling area recited in Claim 1 allows selection of at least one kind of *input document* for image forming.

In other words, Wilson describes a number of output settings that determine how the printed output document will look, such as for example, the copy quality (B4) or the zoom (B6) of the output document. However, Wilson does not describe or suggest allowing the kind of input document to be selected. For instance, in a non-limiting example, Figure 8 shows a number of different types of input documents that may be selected, such as, "Text", "Text-Photo", "Photo" or "Light Document."

Thus, as Wilson does not describe or suggest a input document handling area and does not describe or suggest using this input document handling area to allow selection of at least one kind of *input* document for image forming, Applicants respectfully submit that Wilson does not describe all of the features recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and similarly Claim 7 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguishes over the cited Wilson reference.

In addition, Claims 1, 7 and 13 recite using a touch panel display, the outstanding Action cites Wilson as describing this feature. However, Wilson does not describe or suggest a touch screen device. Instead, Wilson describes that physical buttons B1-B8 are used to make selections along with the keypad shown to the left of Figure 3. Nowhere does Wilson describe a touch screen. For example, Claim 13 recites a first touch screen, a second touch screen and a third touch screen, each screen including options configured to control different portions of the image forming apparatus. Wilson does not describe these features.

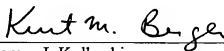
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that in addition to the above noted reasons Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 7 and 13 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Wilson.

Moreover, with respect to the further cited Kimoto reference, this reference does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Wilson with respect to Claims 1, 7 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12 also patentably distinguish over the cited art in light of their dependent from Claims 1 and 7.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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